(vi) The project is expected to facilitate establishment of a transshipment hub for container traffic in the Southern Peninsula, directly benefiting the export and import trade and saving foreign exchange.

Transport capacity in upper Ganges canal

†2345. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether water transport capacity exists in upper Ganges canal in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, whether there is any scheme to utilise it after making assessment of this capacity?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No study has been conducted as yet by Inland Waterways Authority of India to assess water transport capacity in upper Ganges canal in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Does not arise.

Features of National Road Safety Policy

2346. SHRI DATTAMEGHE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the National Road Safety Policy drafted in 1992 and endorsed by the National Road Safety Council in December, 1994;

(b) when was the National Road Safety Policy notified;

(c) whether the provisions of the Policy are being implemented fully;

(d) if not, the reaction of Government thereto in view of rising trend in road accidents; and

(e) whether it is now proposed to review this Policy to make it more practical and effective?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The salient features are given in the enclosed Statement *(See* below).

(b) The policy measures endorsed by National Road Safety Council are being implemented over a period of time.

(c) and (d) These measures are reviewed by the National Road Safety Council periodically. Some of the important steps taken by the Government besides highway design to enhance road safety are as under:

(1) Cranes and ambulances are provided to various State Governments/NGOs under National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme.

(2) Grants-in-aid to voluntary organisations for administering road safety programmes.

(3) Publicity campaign on road safety awareness through audio-visual-print media.

(4) Encouraging use of simulators in driver's training.

(5) Institution of National Award for voluntary organisations/individual for outstanding work in the field of road safety.

(6) Organising All India Essay Competition on road safety for school children with a view to create awareness.

(7) Tightening of fitness norms for transport vehicles.

(8) Widening and improvements of National Highways etc.

Although the number of road accidents in absolute terms has increased, however, as a result of above mentioned measures taken by the Government, the number of road accidents per 10,000 vehicles has been steadily decreasing as under:-

Year	Road accidents per 10,000 vehicles
1990	147.55
2000	80.89
2001	73.76
2002	69.23

(e) Road Safety Policy is constantly reviewed by the Government to make it more effective keeping in view the changing environment.

Statement

The salient features of the National Road Safety Policy are:-

* Classification of the cause of accident and preventive action in terms of vehicle, driver, and engineering aspects.
* Safety features for vehicle design, Fitness certification and maintenance of vehicles.
* Proper training and effective licensing for drivers.
* Road design and geometric improvements.
* Design of road junctions, accident black spot investigation and rectification.
* Traffic guidance, road signs, speed limit posts, and other traffic control devices.
* Road pavement markings, construction of footpaths/cycle tracks, truck parking complexes, and other way side amenities, etc.
* Traffic education and campaign on traffic discipline including traffic education in school curriculum, etc.
* Enforcement of maximum speed limits, and campaign on helmet, seat belt usage, drunken driving, etc.
* Emergency medical service with emphasis on saving the lives of victims etc.

Road bridge on River Banas

2347. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for constructing road overbridge on River Banas in district Banaskantha of Gujarat on National Highway No. 14;